

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Objection

The Examiner indicated that the title of the invention is not descriptive. The title has been amended as shown above.

Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5 and 9 are independent. All of the pending claims have been rejected. By this Amendment, independent claim 16 has been added.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,754,323 to Kaji ("Kaji") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,515,700 to Nakamura ("Nakamura").

The Nakamura reference discloses that a high luminance signal is compressed by a high luminance compression circuit 154, a luminance and a color hue are maintained by using the compressed high luminance signal, and a first and second compression (160, 164) are performed (see col. 8, line 53 to col. 9 and Fig. 7).

Nakamura discloses that the high luminance compression is performed when RGB signals in a horizontal direction are inputted, and the first and second saturation compressions are performed sequentially for the same inputted RGB signals. However, Nakamura does not

disclose that the RGB signals are suppressed by a control signal for the image, which spreads in two-dimensions from a center of the high-luminance portion to the periphery in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction. In fact, in Nakamura, the inputted RGB signals are only horizontal direction signals, and a structure is not disclosed for performing a saturation compression in a vertical direction. Therefore, the apparatus disclosed by Nakamura cannot perform the compression by the signal that two-dimensionally spreads from a center of the high-luminance portion to the periphery in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction on the image.

As a result, Applicant respectfully asserts that Nakamura fails to show or suggest the two dimensional suppression control signal of the pending claims.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that each of independent claims 1, 5 and 9 is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the cited references (i.e., Kaji and Nakamura), either taken alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 5 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicant has not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicant reserves the right to address such rejections should it become necessary.

For claim 16, the Kaji and Nakamura references do not disclose that a separated color signal is suppressed in a prescribed two-dimensional area including the detected high luminance portion to both the horizontal and vertical direction. Claim 16 discloses this type of suppression such that the suppression is reduced from the detected high-luminance portion toward a

periphery of the detected portion in response to the high-luminance portion detected by said detecting part on the image screen. Thus, Applicant believes that independent claim 16 is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the cited references (i.e., Kaji and Nakamura), either taken alone or in combination, for at least this reason.

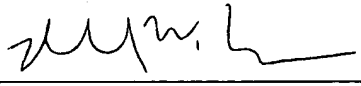
AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4612). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN LLP

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By: 
Richard W. Erwine
Registration No. 41,737

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
MORGAN & FINNEGAN L.L.P.
345 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10154
(212) 758-4800